



TALK ABOUT ALCOHOL

The Toll of Alcohol in Vermont

There can be a high price paid by all of us when a friend or family member drinks alcohol abusively or becomes addicted. Interventions that can lead to treatment of alcohol abuse happen in a variety of ways: through school Student Assistance Professionals; within families, often with the assistance of a drug treatment professional; as a result of involvement with the legal system and with healthcare providers. The cost of ignoring someone who is engaging in risky drinking behaviors and needing treatment can include alcohol-related criminal charges, injuries to themselves and others, or death.

- Of the 104 schools in Vermont

reporting contact between students in grades K-12 and Student Assistance Professionals, more than 4,600 students were seen individually in 2003-2004. Of those students:

- › 20% used alcohol at least once during the school year.
 - › 28% were seen because of a substance abuse issue.
 - › 17% were concerned about substance abuse by a friend.
 - › 19% were concerned about substance abuse in their family.
- Some of the most expensive and tragic alcohol-related interventions occur in hospitals. In 2002:
 - › There were 2,309 emergency room visits by Vermonters age 12 and older that were related to alcohol. 12% of those were youth between the age of 12 and 21.
 - › More than 2,300 Vermonters over the age of 12 were hospitalized because of alcohol abuse, either as a primary diagnosis or a secondary contributing factor.
 - › 240 Vermont residents died as a direct result of alcohol use between 1999 and 2003. This includes alcohol poisoning, alcoholic liver disease, cardiac and neurological disorders. This number does not include deaths where alcohol use may have been a significant condition contributing to death.
 - › 41% of all 2003 fatal automobile crashes in Vermont were alcohol-related.

- Among 10-15 year olds charged with juvenile

delinquency, alcohol possession and furnishing is the third most prevalent charge. Among 16-17 year olds, it is the second most prevalent charge.

- In 2002, the most frequent misdemeanor charges filed in district court against youth age 16-20 were alcohol violations. First offenders must successfully complete the Teen Alcohol Safety Program and treatment if indicated by a screening.
- 11% of Vermonters receiving treatment for substance abuse were there because of a DUI (Driving Under the Influence) offense.
- 2,869 Vermonters are under the supervision of the Vermont Department of Corrections because of a DUI offense. This includes clients on probation, parole, or in jail.
- Almost two thirds of alcohol treatment admissions occur because of involvement with the legal system or because an individual voluntarily seeks treatment.

Getting help if you need it

There may be someone in your home who is unable to control their drinking. Treatment for alcohol abuse and alcoholism works! A list of treatment programs in Vermont can be found at the Vermont Department of Health website at www.healthvermont.gov Alcohol and Drug Abuse section.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month.



Together we can talk about alcohol.

For more information please visit the Vermont Department of Health website at:

<http://healthvermont.gov>